



L. Park
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#5/Papandt
Docket No. CRD-884

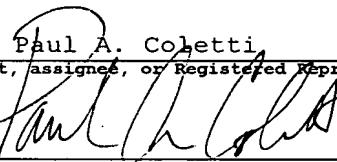
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Robert E. Fischell et al.
Serial No. : 09/609,163
Filed : June 30, 2000
Title : STENT WITH IMPROVED FLEXIBLE CONNECTING LINKS

Art Unit : 3739
Examiner :

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

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Paul A. Coletti
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

March 29, 2001
(Date of Signature)

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 31 and 32.

Please add the following new Claims:

33. (New) A stent in the form of a generally tubular structure having a circumference about the longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

C1
a plurality of circumferential sets of strut members that extend in a generally, ring-like pattern about the stent's circumference; and

a plurality of flexible links each having a distal end and a proximal end and a line joining the distal end and the proximal end being generally parallel to the stent's longitudinal axis, each flexible link